

ILLEGIB

Yemen Says U.S. Action Is 'Retreat'

From News Dispatches

Yemeni President Abdullah as-Sallal told a Cairo newspaper yesterday that the United States "retreated" when it lifted travel restrictions on his country's diplomats in Washington.

Sallal said the United States backed down because the Yemenis warned they would retaliate with similar travel restrictions on Americans.

In Washington a State Department spokesman said the travel restrictions were lifted because the Yemenis had cooperated in the evacuation of 120 State Department and Agency for International Development personnel from the Yemeni city of Taiz.

He said the three-man Yemeni delegation in Washington was asked not to leave the Washington area—the limits of which were never exactly defined — without informing the Department.

He said the Yemeni Ambassador Aziz al-Futaih, who is also his country's delegate to the United Nations, was permitted to travel between Washington and New York.

Relations between the two countries have been strained since Yemen arrested four AID employees last Thursday in Taiz. Two have been released but the others are being charged with trying to blow up an ammunition dump, a charge which the State Department has described as "a total fabrication."

Yemen has charged that the two still being held, Stephen Liapis, 33, of Grand Forks, N.D., and Harold Hartman, 36, of Baltimore, are agents of the Central Intelligence Agency.